

# Count Me In!

**Objective:** To identify people who should be included on the census form.

## Background Information:

- The U.S. Census Bureau is committed to making sure that everyone in the country is counted in the place where they live on Census Day — April 1, 2000.
- The Constitution mandates a census every ten years to determine how many seats each state will have in the U.S. House of Representatives.
- There are specific instructions for determining who should be included on the census form. The form asks, “How many people were living or staying in this house, apartment, or mobile home on April 1, 2000?”

## Extension Activity

Have students create descriptions similar to those on Activity Sheet A, but with the goal of stumping the class. Read the descriptions aloud and ask the class to decide how each situation should be handled.

Have students add Activity Sheets 2A and 2B to their Census 2000 Booklets.

**3.** Ask individual students to read aloud the “I” statements. Work together to decide whether to check yes or no for each statement. Encourage students to refer to the guidelines on who should be included on the census form.

**4.** Review the correct answers with your class.

## Using Activity Sheet 2B:

**1.** Help students understand the concept of “Person 1” on the form. The Census Bureau views “Person 1” as the person who

owns, is buying, or rents the housing unit in question, or, if that person is not available, as any adult living in the house. Keep in mind that “Person 1” does not have to be the person filling out the form.

**2.** Explain that relationship information is asked on the census form to help understand changes in the composition of the American family. This information is used for planning and carrying out a number of federal programs.

**3.** Assist students with filling in the relationship column. Help them to understand any unfamiliar terms.

## Summary:

Explain that the census form is very specific about how people should be counted. Clarify that people should be counted as officially living in the place where they reside most of the time. Emphasize that everyone who lives in the country is counted regardless of age, employment status, and citizenship.

## Answers, p. 5:

1. yes 2. yes 3. no 4. no

## Getting Started:

Write these words on the chalkboard:

United States  
census numbers  
neighborhood

Work together to create a sentence that contains all three of the words above, and demonstrates that the United States uses census numbers to provide services to neighborhoods.

## Using Activity Sheet 2A:

- 1.** Explain that fair representation in the House of Representatives is based upon the Census Bureau counting people where they actually live.
- 2.** Point out that the Census Bureau has specific instructions for determining who should be included on the census form. Read the guidelines from the activity sheet. Clarify any difficult vocabulary words or concepts using definitions provided and additional resources, if needed.

# Count Me In!

## Use these guidelines to answer questions 1–4 below:

**Include** these people on your census form:

- foster children, roomers, or housemates [who live with you]
- people staying in your home on April 1, 2000 who have no other permanent place to stay
- people living in your home most of the time while working, even if they have another place to live

**Do not include** these people on your census form:

- college students living away [from home] while attending college
- people in a correctional facility, nursing home, or mental hospital on April 1, 2000
- Armed Forces personnel living somewhere else
- people who live or stay at another place most of the time

### Definitions:

Armed Forces — people in the military

nursing home — home for people who need continuing health care

correctional facility — jail or prison

roomers — roommates, housemates, boarders

**Read the descriptions below and then check ☐ yes or ☐ no for the questions that follow.**

1. I am a child in kindergarten. I am only five years old. I live with my parents. Should my parents include me on their census form? ☐ yes ☐ no
2. I am a grandmother. I live with my daughter and my grandchildren. Should my daughter include me on her census form? ☐ yes ☐ no
3. I attend college in the town where my parents live, but I live in the dormitory. Should my parents include me on their census form? ☐ yes ☐ no
4. I live in a nursing home, but I often visit my son and stay overnight. Should my son include me on his census form? ☐ yes ☐ no

# Person 1

Start with the name of the people living here who owns, is buying, or rents this house, apartment, or mobile home. If there is no such person, start with any adult living or staying here. We will refer to this person as Person 1.

**What is this person's name? Print name below.**

Last Name

[illegible]

First Name

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## Person 2

### Person 3

### Person 3

**Person 4**

## Person 4

## Person 5

## Person 5

## Person 6

## Person 6

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First, fill in the information for “Person 1,” the person who owns or rents your home. Then, in the spaces below, list the names of the other people who live in your home. Use the back of this sheet if you run out of space.

In the next column, write the kind of relationship that each household member has to Person 1. Choose from the list of relationships on the right side of this page.

## Relationship to Person 1

## Kinds of Relationships

RELATIVES:	NONRELATIVES:
Husband/wife	Roomer, boarder
Natural-born son/daughter	Housemate, roommate
Adopted son/daughter	Unmarried partner
Stepson/stepdaughter	Foster child
Brother/sister	Other nonrelative
Father/mother	
Grandchild	
Parent-in-law	
Son-in-law/daughter-in-law	
Other relative	